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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

October 1, 2005 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

Louisiana took a huge one-two punch from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with substantial damage to cropland and livestock occurring throughout the state. The state's sugarcane crop took solid hits from both hurricanes, but most row crop harvests were well underway by the time Rita hit, and that fact may have saved much of the state's production. Cropland acres in the southern parishes were under salt water, and that may cause damage to next year's crop production. Thanks to an early harvest, record or near-record yields are expected from Louisiana's sorghum and rice crops in 2005. Although the early season got off to a slow start, the hot, dry weather allowed farmers to catch up with the normal harvesting schedule for most crops.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 1.1 million bales, down 4 percent from last month but up 24 percent from 2004. Acreage expected for harvest is 600,000 acres. The expected yield per acre, at 880 pounds, is down 40 pounds from last month but up 13 pounds from 2004. If realized, this will be the second largest yield in the state's history.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 30.7 million cwt, unchanged from the September 1 estimate but up 8 percent from 2004. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 525,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,850 pounds, unchanged from last month but up 500 pounds from last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind only the 2003 crop which had an average yield of 5,870 pounds per acre.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 10.0 million net tons, down 8 percent from the previous month and down 10 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 455,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 22 net tons per acre, down 8 percent from the September 1 estimate and down 1.8 tons from 2004. This will be the lowest net tonnage per acre since 1990, when the state produced 20.6 net tons per acre.

Soybean production is expected to total 28.6 million bushels in Louisiana, down 5 percent from the September 1 estimate, and down 12 percent from a year ago. Acreage of soybeans expected for harvest was revised to 840,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from the June 1

estimate. Yield is forecast at 34 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the previous month, but up 1 bushel from 2004.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 46.2 million bushels, down 6 percent from the previous month, and down 17 percent from 2004. Estimated production is down from last month as harvested acreage was revised, from 350,000 acres to 330,000 acres. Yield per acre, at 140 bushels, is unchanged from last month but up 5 bushels from a year ago.

Sorghum production is estimated at 8.5 million bushels in the state, compared to 5.2 million bushels last year. Sorghum harvested acreage was revised to 85,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield is forecast at 100 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from the previous month and up 35 bushels from 2004. If realized, this will be the record high yield for the state.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.0 million tons, unchanged from the August 1 estimate but down 10 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 400,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2004. Yield, at 2.5 tons per acre, is expected to be down 0.5 ton from last year's record yield.

Louisiana's **pecan** production is forecast at 4.0 million pounds, compared to 9.0 million pounds last year.

United States Crop Prospects

Upland cotton area for harvest, at 13.4 million acres, is unchanged from last month's forecast but is up 5 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested acres are unchanged from last month but are up 7 percent from 2004.

In the Delta region, defoliation of the crop was underway throughout the region. Warmer weather during the early and middle parts of September allowed for the crop to recover from the rain received from Hurricane Katrina and for limited harvesting to begin. Faced with the threat of Hurricane Rita, Louisiana growers made rapid harvest progress during the middle of the month with over 50 percent of the crop harvested by the end of September. The end of month found harvesting slowing down across most of the Delta due to the heavy rain received from Hurricane Rita. Farmers in Mississippi are concerned about the damage the crop received from the rainfall and the tornadoes. In Mississippi, objective yield

measurements show below average bolls per acre but the highest boll weight in the last 10 years.

Rice production is forecast at 223 million cwt, down 2 percent from the September forecast and down 3 percent from last year. Area expected for harvest, at 3.34 million acres, is unchanged from last month but up fractionally from 2004. As of October 1, the U.S. all rice yield is forecast at 6,678 pounds per acre, down 152 pounds per acre from last month and down 264 pounds from last year's record high yield.

As of October 2, rice harvest in Louisiana and Texas was nearly complete, at 94 percent and 99 percent harvested, respectively. Elsewhere in the Delta, about three-fourths of the crop was harvested in Arkansas and Mississippi while Missouri's harvest was only 58 percent complete. These states, along with California's crop, at 41 percent harvested, lagged their respective 5-year average harvest pace by 4 to 6 percentage points.

Sugarcane production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2005 is forecast at 30.2 million tons, slightly above the September forecast and 4 percent above 2004. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 957,900 acres for sugar and seed during the 2005 crop year, up 2 percent from September and last year. Yield is forecast at 31.6 tons per acre, 0.4 ton below the previous forecast but 0.7 ton above the 2004 yield.

In Louisiana, where Hurricane Rita caused extensive wind and flood damage in the southwestern sugarcane-growing areas, the production forecast is down 910,000 tons from September, due to the yield forecast being reduced 2.0 tons. However, Florida's harvested acreage and yield are up from the September forecast due to plentiful rainfall in the Lake Okeechobee area. The resulting increase in the production forecast, of 990,000 tons, more than offset the decrease in Louisiana. Acreage, yield and production forecasts are unchanged for Hawaii and Texas.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the September forecast but 5 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average 41.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from September but 0.6 bushel below last year's record high yield. Below-normal temperatures and adequate moisture during August and early September across most of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Delta regions were beneficial to the crop during the final stages of development. Above-normal temperatures followed for the rest of September, just in time for the harvest season to begin. Acreage updates based on administrative data were made in several states. Area planted is now estimated at 72.2 million acres, down 903,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.3 million acres, down 914,000 acres from September.

Corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but 8 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 146.1 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from September but 14.3 bushels below last year. Forecast yields are either unchanged or higher than last month in all forecasting states, except Alabama and Mississippi. As harvest progresses, producers are finding the warm, dry conditions during July and August did not reduce yields as much as originally expected. Yields are better than last year in the northern tier states but are still well below last year's record highs in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states and farmers now expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, up 15,000 acres from September and up 1 percent from 2004.

Sorghum production is forecast at 375 million bushels, down 6 percent from last month and down 18 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 66.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from September but down 3.8 bushels from last year. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 5.69 million acres, down 6 percent from last month and 13 percent below last year. Acreage updates based on administrative information were made in several states. Planted area was updated to 6.50 million acres, down 7 percent from the June estimate and down 13 percent from 2004. The yield in Kansas, the largest producing state, is expected to be 72.0 bushels, down 2.0 bushels from September and down 4.0 bushels from 2004. Producers in Texas, the second largest sorghum producing state, expect a yield of 57.0 bushels per acre, which is up 1.0 bushel from last month but down 5.0 bushels from last year.

All Hay production is forecast at 152.7 million tons, down 3 percent from 2004. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.47 tons per acre, down .08 ton from the previous year. Harvested acres is forecast at 61.7 million acres, virtually unchanged from the previous year.

The October 1 forecast for 2005 **pecan** utilized production is 289 million pounds (in-shell basis), up 55 percent from last year's crop and 2 percent above 2003. Improved varieties are expected to produce 232 million pounds or 80 percent of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties, at 57.0 million pounds make up the remaining 20 percent. The 2005 crop is expected to be larger than last year's in most producing states mainly because it is an "up year" in the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. Louisiana and Mississippi are exceptions to the high cycle due to extensive hurricane damage to trees.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA**October 1, 2005**

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005		2004	2005
Corn for grain	410	330	135	140	bushels	55,350	46,200
Upland Cotton	490	600	867	880	lbs:bales	885	1,100
Rice	533	525	5,350	5,850	lbs:cwt	28,522	30,713
Sorghum for grain	80	85	65	100	bushels	5,200	8,500
Soybeans	990	840	33	34	bushels	32,670	28,560
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	465	455	23.8	22.0	net tons	11,067	10,010
Hay, all	370	400	3.0	2.5	tons	1,110	1,000
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	9,000	4,000

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES**October 1, 2005**

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005		2004	2005
Corn for grain	73,632	74,333	160.4	146.1	bushels	11,807,217	10,857,440
Upland Cotton	12,809	13,408	843	788	lbs:bales	22,505.1	22,013.0
Rice	3,325	3,343	6,942	6,678	lbs:cwt	230,818	223,238
Sorghum for grain	6,517	5,687	69.8	66.0	bushels	454,899	375,105
Soybeans	73,958	71,270	42.2	41.6	bushels	3,123,686	2,967,075
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	938.2	957.9	30.9	31.6	net tons	29,013	30,241
Hay, all	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.47	tons	157,752	152,698
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	185,800	288,700

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